

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
June 16, 2009**

The local jurisdiction meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at the Oxford Suites, 15015 East Indiana, Spokane Valley, Washington.

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Dick Ford, Elmira Forner, Bob Distler, Latisha Hill, Carol Moser and Philip Parker.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND COMMISSION INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Forner opened the meeting welcoming meeting participants and guests. She also welcomed David Condon, Congresswomen Cathy McMorris-Rodgers office, Marcus Roselli, Senator Maria Cantwell's office, Judy Olson, Senator Patty Murray's office, Kimm Hill, Senator Lisa Brown's office and Senator Chris Marr.

**TRANSPORTATION 101 – A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FUNDING AND PLANNING
IN WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION**

Paul Parker, Senior Policy Analyst, Transportation Commission, gave a presentation that provided an overview of transportation related revenue.

Paula Hammond, Secretary, WSDOT, shared that Department's primary mission is to make certain that all of the state's transportation system is safe for the traveling public. She provided a brief overview of completed and current projects underway. She briefly talked about high-priority community needs and the future Washington Transportation Plan.

CITY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

Mayor Richard Munson, City of Spokane Valley and Mayor Mary Verner, City of Spokane shared information on city issues, the City of Spokane Valley's Pavement Management Program and Bridging the Valley Projects (freight safety). Ms. Diana Willhite, Council Member, City of Spokane Valley provided an overview of regional governance and the maintenance and preservation budget gap. They wrapped up the presentation with a brief discussion on sustainable transportation funding.

Commissioners, Mayor Munson and Mayor Verner discussed local taxing authorities and equitability for communities.

Mayor Verner provided an overview of the City of Spokane's capital projects and major accomplishments noting that the long-term goal is to provide a multi-modal inter-and intra-jurisdictional transportation system that is a catalyst to a vibrant regional economy. Their strategy is to establish and maintain a unified vision, effective governance and a realistic finance plan.

Commissioners commented on highway maintenance funding at the local level noting that

many local options are not used.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

Betsy Cowles, Chair, Greater Spokane Inc., explained that the business community wants consistency across boundaries in terms of taxes and transportation infrastructure. She expressed that the long-term goal is to provide a multi-modal inter-and intra-jurisdictional transportation system that is a catalyst to a vibrant regional economy. Their strategy is to establish and maintain a unified vision, effective governance and a realistic finance plan.

Commissioner Todd Mielke, Spokane County, also commented on project estimates and regional project funding.

Senator Marr commented that in the absence of local plans, the Puget Sound model is the default.

Commissioner Mielke provided an overview of the difficulty of winter highway maintenance activities in the region over the last two previous years. He moved on to discuss Road Improvement Districts, funding contributions and regional priorities.

Glenn Miles, Transportation Manager, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, commented on transportation stimulus funds and projects currently under construction. He moved on to discuss mobility, market accessibility and regional challenges.

Susan Meyer, Chief Executive Officer, Spokane Transit Authority, provided an overview of transit funding shortfalls, cost efficiencies and effectiveness and various transit services that are provided within the region and sales tax recovery.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL PROJECTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Keith Metcalf, Eastern Regional Administrator, WSDOT, provided a briefing on the North Spokane Corridor Project. He explained the corridor's key components include independent pedestrian and bike paths as well as future high capacity facilities, most likely HOV lanes. He provided an overview of the corridor Nickel Projects.

NAMING OF THE "CHILDREN OF THE SUN TRAIL"

Larry Larson, Project Engineer, Eastern Region, WSDOT, presented Resolution 693 naming the "Children of the Sun Trail". The trail is 10.5 miles and runs parallel to the North Spokane Corridor along the entire route.

It was moved by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Ford to approve Resolution 693 naming the 10.5 mile trail parallel to the North Spokane Corridor the "Children of the Sun Trail". The motion passed unanimously.

CAR-FREE MOBILITY IN THE SPOKANE REGION

Joe McCullough, Spokane Regional Health District, shared information regarding public

health and the use of active modes of transportation for a healthier community.

Cindy Green, Program Manager, Spokane Regional Health District and Julie Banks, Financial Development Director, YMCA of the Inland Northwest shared information on car-free mobility in the Spokane region. Ms. Green talked about Smart Routes to promote walking and biking. Ms. Banks shared information regarding physical fitness and nutrition to improve youth fitness and neighborhood walkability.

BI-STATE-STATE TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Chair Daryl Manning, State of Idaho Transportation Board, introduced fellow Board members Vice Chair Bruce Sweeney and Jim Coleman. He moved on to share that the Idaho Board is an administrative board that sets policy and appoints the Director of the Department of Transportation.

Scott Stokes, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Transportation, expressed that Idaho and Washington maintain a close relationship that benefits both states' on cross-border projects. He briefly commented on the decline in gas tax revenue and its challenges.

Commissioners and Board members discussed multi-state tax solutions, VMT and tolling facilities for transportation funding.

Secretary Hammond commented on user fees and public acceptance.

Commissioner Hill moderated a panel of local presenters that shared information on regional transportation developments since the Inland Northwest Regional Transportation Summit. The discussion focused on the development of the Inland Northwest Hub, Spokane International Airport, the Coeur d'Alene Airport and greater Spokane transportation issues and successes.

Senator Goedde of Idaho shared that the vision has been to attract economic commerce to the state. He touched on priorities for the national highway system and the impact of regional freight traffic's impact on quality of life. He noted that the Canadian's have invested significant investments into the Port of Prince Rupert improvements. In closing he expressed that the Inland Pacific Hub is perfectly positioned to be a key link to competitive commerce for prosperity.

Rich Hadley, CEO of Greater Spokane, Inc., indicated that the region continues to grow on both sides of the state line. Transit connections between Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Post Falls would improve workforce access and reduce trips in the 1-90 corridor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Locke, citizen expressed that he feels costs must be brought down. He briefly commented on the cost of the City of Seattle's monorail program and transit services and the elevated taxation on local levies.

David Condon spoke on behalf of Congresswomen Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, sharing that it is clear that the region has demonstrated that it has learned to address local infrastructure challenges. He praised local executives for their commitment and dedication to their communities. He briefly touched on federal funding reauthorization and closed by reading a letter from the Congresswomen.

Allan Fackenthall, Washington State Grange, talked about the 1946 Cascade Tunnel Project that was funded, but mothballed for 50 years. He asked that the Commission keep this in mind as a future project.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 5 p.m., on June 16, 2009.

This meeting has been recorded. If you would like additional meeting details tapes are available for a nominal fee. Please contact the Transportation Commission Office at (360)705-7070.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ABSENT

DAN O'NEAL, Chair

ELMIRA FORNER, Vice Chair

PHILIP PARKER, Member

LATISHA HILL, Member

DICK FORD, Member

CAROL MOSER, Member

ROBERT S. DISTLER, Member

PAULA HAMMOND, Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

JENNIFER ZIEGLER, Governor's Office

ATTEST:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Executive Director

DATE OF APPROVAL